

DIVIDENDS PAID BY COTTON MILLS.

A YEAR OF UNPARALLELED PROSPERITY AT FALL RIVER.

Fall River, Dec. 29 (Special).—The cotton mills in this city have closed their financial year. Thirty-six corporations, capitalized at \$15,518,000 and operating 1,374,000 spms., paid out in dividends in \$804,640, or 4.9 per cent. In 1892 these same mills paid out \$21,550,000 on the same capital, an average of 11.04 per cent. Included in the last named sum are the extra dividends of \$375,000 and \$445,000 paid to the Union and Peacock mills shareholders from the accumulated earnings of years and the sale of real estate. Eliminating these two extra dividends from the earnings of 1892, the thirty-six corporations have declared dividends averaging 7.36 per cent, an increase of 2.12 per cent over 1891. In making an annual public report of earnings treasurers oftentimes feel it injudicious to allow a full return to become known, lest a "mid-in-the-supper" be demanded. In some instances it is a fact that treasurers, by the advice of directors, show "stock in process" on their ledgers which is not in the mill, but is in the form of surplus funds in the bank.

These returns do not give a full idea of the prosperity of the year, as some mills are not listed. The Kerr Thread Company, capitalized at \$600,000, appears as a dividend paying concern this year, having disposed of \$2,000, or 8 per cent, among its owners. The Fall River Iron Works Company, operating two mills, and the Durfee Mills, three in number, both private corporations, have carried at least 16 per cent on their capital stock. The Granite and Harrington corporations are erecting two 40,000-spindle mills, and the Stevens Manufacturing Company and Sanford spinning Company, both new concerns, will shortly be carrying dividends. One of the strongest things of the year's business has been the very low figures at which stocks have sold. Shows that pay regular dividends of from 4 to 7.12 per cent can be purchased from \$112 to \$177, and there has been a drug in the market at those figures. Commodity wages were increased 10 per cent during the year, and they are required to work two hours less a week.

MADE RELIGION A CLOAK FOR CRIME.

A WEALTHY NEW-ZEALAND WIDOW THE LATEST VICTIM OF THE "REV." WILLIAM HAMMOND.

Boston, Dec. 29.—The "Rev." William Hammond, known throughout the United States and especially in New England as a confidence man, bigamist and general swindler, has been up to his old tricks in Auckland, New Zealand, according to advices received by the police of this city, who were applied to for information by the Auckland authorities. Before he was exposed, however, he succeeded in marrying a wealthy widow there, and after securing \$8,000 of her money, deserted her, going to Japan, where he is now supposed to be. This marriage makes his ninth, as far as known, and at least five of the victimized women are living. He has acted as a Methodist, Unitarian, Free Will Baptist and Presbyterian minister, as a physician and lawyer, and had joined and been expelled from many secret societies.

At South Poultney, N. Y., he acted as a Catholic priest, and is said to have appropriated a sum of church money when he left town suddenly. In Allentown, Penn., he is remembered as a Presbyterian minister and a "conscientious liar and profiteer." In Ligonier, Ind., he appeared as a physician, but the town growing too warm for him, he went to Wolf Lake, Ind. When he left there the citizens expressed their gratification by firing cannon. In 1866 he appeared at Franklin Falls, N. H., as a Free Will Baptist minister, and made love to a widow, Mrs. Dr. W. H. Brockway, who had money. Soon after he finally consented to marry Hammond. Just after the marriage he got \$2,000 deposited in a savings bank in her name, and also secured a \$1,000 bond she held. Then Mr. Brockway says, he doosed her with morphine and left town. The \$2,000 was in form of a draft on Boston, payment of which was stopped by telegraph. Hammond was arrested in Boston and taken to Franklin Falls, but when his wife found that her money was safe, she was persuaded to drop the criminal complaint.

WET LAKE SEMINARY SUPPORTS PROF. SMITH.

Cincinnati, Dec. 29.—"The Commercial Gazette" this morning says that there is good foundation for the report that the Executive Committee of Lane Seminary have not only advised Professor William H. Roberts to resign, but have demanded his resignation. One of the trustees, in an interview yesterday, it says, used these words: "It is time for Lane Seminary to declare that Professor Smith has neither taught an untruth nor been guilty of heresy. Lane Seminary is on the side of Dr. Smith because he is on the right side. As there must be harmony in the faculty, it is best that Professor Roberts should go."

TO CONSOLIDATE MAINE'S ELECTRIC PLANTS.

Augusta, Me., Dec. 29 (Special).—There is a plan on foot to consolidate the electric railway and light plants of the State with a capital of \$4,000,000. Amos G. Fairchild is the principal mover in the enterprise.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.

FEATURES OF NEW-YORK DEALINGS.

There was a moderately active speculative movement in wheat at the Produce Exchange yesterday, the sales reaching 1,375,000 bushels. The temper of the market as a rule firm, though there was a decline early in the session of 1.56 per cent, due to easier cable accounts, pension selling and local realizing. When the Bradstreet statement of the visible supply, showing a decrease of 1,638,000 bushels east and 611,000 bushels west of the Mississippi, was posted on the board, the market showed a 1.37 per cent, after a short period of irregularity and fractional break—a further advance of 3.41 per cent followed. The market was then quiet, but brokers were active, and shippers took 240,000 bushels, but an advance subsequently checked business.

Wheat futures at the start were at 70 cents, but the market in this direction including 6,000 bushels spring wheat, the sales in this direction being 6,000 bushels, and bakers' buyers at \$42 for the week. The receipts were 1,235 bushels, foreign and local, and 1,000 bushels for export. The market was quiet, but brokers were active, and shippers took 240,000 bushels, but an advance subsequently checked business.

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